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LA NACION NOTES LAW OF SEA MEETING

PY271830Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Feb 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "The Rights of the Sea"]

[Text] The Fourth Law of the Sea Conference scheduled for next month in New York will once again discuss an increasingly important problem which is becoming quite serious as the result of present demographic pressures. Until now, maritime rights had fundamentally to do with navigation; the sea was nothing more than a shipping way and its depth was just a subject of scientific research. Today, that situation has changed. In the first place, fish which for a long time has been only a dietary supplement for most countries, has become all of a sudden the principal food for an increasing population. Interest is directed not only toward land masses but toward oceans which have gained enormous significance.

As though that were not enough, it was confirmed not too long ago that the bottom of the sea is a great reservoir of raw materials such as great oil reserves. The combination of these circumstances has posed a serious challenge for the exploitation of these resources and to the present legal norms which have become outdated. These facts affect our country, which has a very large continental shelf with well-known resources, as revealed by previous studies. Not much can be expected of this conference because important interests are involved, with many theoretical positions and schemes proposed which are in many cases nothing but schemes for unacceptable appropriations. Previous meetings have been long in duration but short on results. Let us hope that this new meeting--despite those understandable complications--will be a step forward, however small, toward a fair and effective exploitation of undersea resources and the creation of an awareness of the importance of the sea in our countries.

4TH LIST OF DETAINEES ISSUED; TOTAL REACHES 2,434

PY251248Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0700 GMT 25 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb--A fourth list of detainees at the disposal of the executive branch was released yesterday by the Interior Ministry. It includes 511 male prisoners who were in jail in Sierra Chica, Buenos Aires Province, as of 14 February. Adding this figure, the names of 2,434 detainees have been released by the Interior Ministry.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES LA RAZON FOR ONE ISSUE

PY250122Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0055 GMT 25 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb--It has been officially reported here that the Argentine military government has closed the afternoon newspaper LA RAZON for one edition. Executive Branch Decree No 493 states that this measure will go into effect tomorrow, Saturday, and that the measure was adopted in view of the publication by the newspaper of "foreign news agency reports on the Beagle conflict."

PONCE CABALLERO INQUIRES INTO MILITARY ELECTION ROLE

PY011523Y La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Jaime Ponce Caballero, vice presidential candidate for the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] has asked the armed forces to define clearly their position regarding the coming general elections. The request is based on a recent statement by Gen Hugo Banzer to the French newspaper LE MONDE. On that occasion the president said that the election will be free, but he also asserted that in all the countries of the world the incumbent government gives its support to candidates who are in closest agreement with it. He made this statement in explanation of his position regarding Pereda Asbun.

Ponce Caballero believes that the statement compromises the impartiality and prestige of the armed forces, since they adopt one [word indistinct] candidate. He states his opinion that Banzer, as commander in chief, has compromised military independence in the coming elections and has even converted the armed forces into a "political party." According to Ponce Caballero this position would provide arguments for permitting the political parties to arm themselves and organize militias.

The FSB politician has therefore asked the armed forces to define their attitudes toward the electoral process and the government, in view of the constitution which stipulates total military neutrality.

ADRIAZOLA ASKS FOR COMMENTS ON SEA OUTLET

PY241903Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Feb 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpts] Regarding the sea negotiations with Chile, Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola has urged all those who want to comment on topics previously not discussed, or to make statements contrary to the sacred interests of the fatherland, to make these statements now instead of later. He noted that the armed forces government has proof of its irreproachable conduct during these negotiations.

During an interview with EL DIARIO, General Adriazola regretted the persistent "magnifying of alleged errors without giving viable solutions, beyond the use of demagogy."

In his brief statement, the foreign minister noted that his 14 February remarks to a group of journalists "were not aimed at promoting a controversy, either inside or outside the country."

He explained that his statement was made in line with his duty of informing the public in a specific, objective and detailed manner, about all the steps of the diplomatic process related to the sea negotiations. He added: "Therefore, we are not going to answer any provocations, in order to avoid controversies."

BRIEFS

ROLLED STEEL PRODUCTION--La Paz, 17 Feb--It was officially reported in La Paz today that in 6 years Bolivia will produce 450,000 metric tons of rolled steel in a state plant which will cost $8 million and will use the Mutun deposits on the Brazilian border. U.S., FRG and Japanese steel firms have stated interest in financing the Bolivian steel plant. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1556 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY]

GEISEL TO SIGN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PACT WITH FRG

PY272014Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[By correspondent William Waack]

[Excerpt] Bonn--The signing of an agreement on technical standards for quality control and the joint development of the technology of high-temperature reactors will probably be the highpoint of President Geisel's visit to the FRG. The signing of the contract will take place in the atomic research center at Julich, the part of it referring to quality control to be signed with the Brazilian Industrial Technology Secretariat and the part concerning high temperature reactors, with NUCLEBRAS.

The FRG attaches great importance to the quality-control sector, since many medium-sized Brazilian companies cannot yet meet the standards necessary to supply reactor components and other nuclear installations. The signing of the agreement on cooperation for the development of high temperature reactors, which can use thorium instead of uranium as fuel, has a rather symbolic value since it has not yet been fully hammered out, and the 1969 technical agreement would permit joint work in that field.

BRAZIL EXPECTS TO RENEW OIL AGREEMENT WITH USSR

PY271735Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 78 p 23 PY

[Excerpt] SOYUZNEFTEXPORT, a USSR exporting company, is negotiating with PETROBRAS the renewal of the oil agreement signed in 1974. The vice president of the USSR company, Nikolay Markov, has been in Rio de Janeiro since Tuesday to discuss this matter. Although official negotiations have not yet begun, it is known that they will involve 2 million tons of oil which the USSR annually supplies Brazil in a barter deal for agricultural and manufactured products.

Markov intends to renew the agreement, but PETROBRAS technicians fear that the price of oil will be more expensive than the oil bought from the Middle East. According to an analysis made by PETROBRAS, Soviet oil only represents 5 percent of Brazil's total oil imports, while the amount purchased from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait represents close to 60 percent. Negotiations will last 15 days because PETROBRAS is considering various formulas to strike a better bargain. One of them would be to purchase Soviet oil for trade with other oil producing countries, a very common practice in the international oil market.

SAO PAULO ARCHBISHOP TO MEET CARTER

PY011725Y Aparecida Radio Aparecida in Portuguese 1430 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The President of the United States wants to see Sao Paulo Cardinal Dom Paulo Evaristo Arns. Jimmy Carter has sent a letter couched in quite humble terms, asking to meet the Sao Paulo metropolitan archbishop when he, Carter, visits Brazil late this month, "if Dom Paulo can find time on his agenda."

The Sao Paulo cardinal met President Carter at Notre Dame University when the archbishop received an award for his work in support of human rights. Cardinal Arns said that he will go to Rio de Janeiro 30 March to meet with the U.S. President that night at a site to be determined by the U.S. Embassy in Brazil.

EL MERCURIO BACKS TODMAN CRITICISM OF U.S. RIGHTS POLICY

Santiago Chile EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Feb 78 p 3 WA

[Editorial: "North American Human Rights Policy"]

[Text] As the Carter Administration was starting out, one of the fundamental points of its program of action, solemnly announced in a speech by the new President, was concern for respecting human rights. This policy was supported by the simultaneous announcement of a series of punitive measures against countries which violated these rights. In the main this punishment consisted of cutting military and economic aid to the government concerned.

Given the political circumstances prevailing in the world, the program did not affect the big violators of human rights, such as the Soviet Union, Cuba and other communist countries. But it did have a special impact on the developing countries of Latin America.

The new North American policy suffered from serious errors. From the outset it did not seek to initiate action through the existing international agencies, such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Instead it was managed, controlled and directed by the North American government itself. That government set itself up as judge and interested party in the proceedings which its officials had initiated. Judging acts considered to infringe upon human rights was done against the criteria of a highly developed country, without taking into account local considerations and reasons for these infractions which, generally, were related to the anticommunist and antiterrorist struggle.

The Latin American countries affected reacted violently. The punitive measures were considered to be biased and in violation of sovereignty. They were thought to be opening a new chapter in U.S. intervention in Latin America.

Time has passed and the inevitable reactions have begun, because this policy was a mistake.

Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman, in a speech delivered at the Center for Inter-American Relations in New York, recommended a more moderate, balanced and realistic human rights campaign in order to avoid undermining the influence of the United States in the promotion of hemispheric social and economic development.

"We must avoid accusing some and not others," he said. In his words: "Selective morality is a contradiction." Then he added: "With regard to any particular Latin American country, we do not have to believe that only the opposition is telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth concerning the conditions prevailing in that country."

This is particularly true with regard to Chile in the present circumstances.

Just as these important concepts were being voiced by this U.S. Government spokesman, the North American Naval Institute review reported that President Carter's human rights policy is endangering South America's naval power. The total withdrawal of U.S. aid would immobilize half of the South American naval strike force and could result in increased Soviet influence in the region.

No nation which boasts a solid democratic tradition can ignore human rights. It is precisely the alert and mature attitude of a government toward these rights which requires especially careful treatment of this issue when one is referring to other nations.

After a year's apprenticeship President Carter's administration will probably be in a position to see more nuances in the problem of human rights on our continent, especially in Chile. The ideas expressed by Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Todman lead us to hope s

BRADY DENIES MILITARY AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR

PY012046Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1933 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 1 Mar--Chilean Defense Minister Gen Hermann Brady denied here today the possibility of a special military agreement between Chile and Ecuador.

With regard to press reports on possible Chilean-Ecuadorean military maneuvers, the minister said: "We have no borders with Ecuador."

He also emphasized that "we have, traditionally and historically, had responsible contacts with Ecuador. Ecuadorean officers have come to study here and we have sent officers to study in Ecuador."

COMPTROLLER GENERAL DENIES HE IS RESIGNING

PY222029Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 22 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Sergio Fernandez, national comptroller general, has denied that he has submitted his resignation. Moreover, an official government source denied persistent rumors in this regard which were spread this morning and which stated that Sergio Fernandez was retiring to private practice. Fernandez assumed his duties on 1 January 1978 after the resignation of his predecessor, Hector Humeres.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN TRADE--Chilean trade with the five nations in the Andean subregional market has increased, according to statistics released by the Central Bank. Between January and October of 1977, imports increased 42 percent, while exports grew 10.7 percent. Imports during this period totaled $253.4 million in 1977. Exports reached $109.708 million. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2340 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY]

BANK RESERVES--Santiago, Chile, 23 Feb--The Central Bank has reported that Chilean reserves as of 17 February 1978 are more than $1 billion. The Central Bank has $895 million in reserves and Chilean private banks $109 million. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2150 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY]

MATERIALS ON NATIONAL ELECTORAL PRIMARIES

79.9 Percent Abstention Rate

PA011812Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1439 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 1 Mar (AFP)--The abstention rate in Colombia's legislative elections has risen to 79.9 percent, a record in the country's history, a government bulletin confirmed today. The bulletin, issued by the Civil Registry Office, places the total number of people voting at approximately 3.5 million out of a possible total of 12,309,763.

According to the bulletin, the Liberal Party obtained 1,825,623 ballots, leading the Conservative Party, its traditional adversary, by 782,044 votes. The opposition groups (Maoists, Communists, Socialists and Populists) obtained in all 4.3 percent of the votes. Other smaller groups garnered 8.1 of the votes, which completes 100 percent. [figures as received]

Lleras Recognizes Ayala's Victory

PA012016Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Former Colombian President Carlos Lleras Restrepo has recognized Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's victory in a statement delivered to this station this afternoon. Marco Jara Reports:

Former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo today recognized the victory of Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala as the Liberal Party's presidential candidate and notified his followers that his name has been eliminated from the coming presidential campaign. Lleras left the congressmen elected on Sunday free to assume the position they deem best in the presidential race. [words indistinct] According to data [words indistince] department vote counts has obtained the largest number of votes. Lleras says that the department votes have still not been counted, and it is possible, as has often happened, that their results will change the figures made public so far and which correspond to the [words indistinct].

Lleras adds that, however, due to the relatively limited number of votes in my favor compared to the lists sponsored by Julio Cesar Turbay, I consider it proper to declare that my name has been eliminated as candidate for the presidency and that I accept this verdict. In this way, I am fully abiding by the commitments contracted in the San Carlos consensus and in the points I previously referred to. I have no other moral or political obligation and, personally, I cannot endorse a solution which the majority of the party adopted under circumstances and procedures which I exposed and fought for many years.

The former president goes on to add: Those who with bravery and selflessness accompanied me are at total liberty, naturally to follo the conduct which their conscience disctates regarding the candidacy of Julio Cesar Turba , the party's official candidate. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the men and women of Colombia who accompanied me in the electoral campaign or who is some way contributed to it. We have waged and lost a battle in which we tried to alert the party and the country about the dangers from the social, political and administrative corruption which has been undermining the foundations of our collective life. However, I cherish the hope that our efforts have not been in vain, despite the results which [words indistinct] were registered in some regions as a result of corrput machinery, operating for months with the assistance or collusion of the government, and the illegality prevailing in political practices. I feel that it is unnecessary for the time being to go into further details of the factors involved in the electoral process and which influenced the results.

I was not unaware of these when I signed the San Carlos consensus and when I personally intervened in the explanations contained in that document. I knew they entailed a risk and I assumed it consciously knowing that it was impossible to draw up formulas other than those contained in the consensus.

Signed: Carlos Lleras Restrepo

Betancur Scores Illegal Practices

PA011818Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Belisario Betancur, the official Conservative Party candidate, today made strong statements in Armenia announcing a war without quarter against the mafias who have established an empire in the country. He said in this struggle he will give everything he has even though his life may be threatened.

Referring to former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo, he praised the former president highly as a great [words indistinct] nobly signed the pages of peace with my party. Belisario Betancur said: The entire country is terrified at what happened during Sunday's elections. It was grave. For the first time in the history of Colombia, the power of big money was able to quash and suppress personalities like Carlos Lleras Restrepo. Rivers of money flowed in the streets, drowning the expectations of the former Liberal president [words indistinct].

Betancur has taken the first steps to unite the Conservative Party, and he announced the establishment of coordinating committees to direct the groups' concerns. This statement was made by presidential candidate Belisario Betancur regarding last Sunday's elections in which he highly praised former President Lleras Restrepo.

AUTHORITIES CAPTURE ELN GUERRILLA CHIEF

PA011744Y Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Feb 78 p 14-B PA

[Article by Jairo Saravia H.]

[Text] The state secret services have dealt a harsh blow to the National Liberation Army (ELN) by capturing one of the chiefs of its urban network. The guerrilla was captured as he was distributing ELN propaganda urging citizens to refrain from voting.

The guerrilla has been identified as Segundo Eduardo Galeano Lopez, who was reportedly responsible for organizing the ELN support apparatus here. His efforts were directed primarily at students, particularly students at the Santander Industrial University. There is also evidence of his involvement in many strikes on previous occasions. Galeano Lopez is originally from Bucaramanga, and is not known to have any definite occupation.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS FORCE POLICE TO ACT IN CALI

PA012059Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia--Groups of students today stoned the offices of the Savings and Housing Corporation (AHORRAMAS), destroying its doors and windows and charged against vehicles during the second day of street disturbances in Cali.

The new and violent incidents staged by the students today prompted the police to take action. The outrages took place in southern Cali, where the AHORRAMAS offices and several vehicles were stoned. The damages caused by the incidents were not immdiately revealed but were estimated at over 50,000 pesos.

The police intervention to restore order gave rise to confrontations like those which took place yesterday. The police reported that students of Santa Librada and Jose Eustaqui Palacio schools participated in today's incidents. The student demonstrations stem from the closing for an indefinite period of the Antonio Jose Camacho Institute and the occupation of the National Institute for Diversified Medium-Level Education [INEM] College by the police.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER DENIES HE HAS RESIGNED

PA012052Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--I have not resigned and do not intend to resign even if the ruling of the attorney general's office is unfavorable, Public Works Minister Humberto Salcedo Collantes reiterated today.

Since I have not been tried or sentenced by any judge or the Senate committee, I am not going to resign even if the attorney general's office rules against me, because there is still one more legal step I can take to clear my name, Salcedo said. He added that he has not received any communication from the attorney general's office, but that he is waiting for the ruling of the Public Ministry, which opened an investigation into his administrative activities at his own request.

FURTHER ARRESTS ORDERED REGARDING CHAMBER CRIMES

PA011209Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 25 Feb 78 pp 1-A, 12-A PA

[Article by Hernan Unas]

[Excerpts] Judge Ricardo Sanabria Nino of the 11th higher court has issued arrest warrants for five of the six people who were recently indicted during the proceedings held for members of the Chamber of Representatives charged with perjury and embezzlement.

The warrants were issued for Chamber Secretary General Ignacio Laguado Moncada, First Commission Secretary Jorge Useche Sanchez, former Chamber Personnel Chief Argemiro Lopez Buitrago and private citizens Olimpo Ramirez and Hebert Useche Sanchez, brother of Jorge Useche Sanchez.

The judge found no reason to order the arrest of Celmira Meneses, whose deposition was heard several days ago.

The judge addressed an official letter to President Dr Alfonso Lopez Michelsen yesterday, asking him to suspend Ignacio Laguado Moncada and Jorge Useche Sanchez from the performance of their duties in order to execute the arrest warrants he issued yesterday.

Even though it was not specified why each of the aforementioned individuals was ordered arrested, it has been learned that they were charged with perjury and embezzlement.

Lopez, Useche and Laguado were ordered arrested for using their office to write or legalize hundreds of illegal contracts. The two private citizens were partly implicated in the cashing of checks or were in some way involved in attempting to collect money for the notorious "technical services" that, as is well known, were supplied by illiterates, minors or people who have never been in Bogota.

It is noteworthy that with the arrests ordered yesterday, the number of people who were arrested for the aforementioned crimes totals six. Several weeks ago Judge Winston Guillermo Martinez Millan issued an arrest warrant against Dr Alberto Santofimio Botero, president of the Chamber of Representatives, who is still at the 11th police precinct jail.

NATIONAL ARMY COMMANDER INTERVIEWED ON VARIOUS ISSUES

PA241808Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Feb 78 p 12 PA

[Interview conducted by Carlos A. Mejia S. with Colombian Army Commander Gen Luis Camacho Leyva in Medellin, Antioquia Department, on 14 February]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is the reason for your visit?

[Answer] The main reason is to meet with the commanding officers of the operations unit of the 4th Brigade and to give assurances to the people of Antioquia that their request for surveillance and the protection of human lives will be met.

[Question] How are the armed forces preparing for the electoral campaign?

[Answer] It is traditional for the Colombian people to enjoy the security and surveillance provided by our armed services during such times. For this campaign we have devised a plan to safeguard the security of each and every Colombian citizen.

[Question] How have the armed forces been working along with the country's active forces toward the eradication of kidnaping and other heinous crimes that plague the nation?

[Answer] We have been drastic about this and the courts-martial have imposed the heaviest punishments for those who are involved in kidnapings.

[Question] What do you think about certain articles published by foreign newspapers on a possible coup d'etat in Colombia in view of the retirement of ranking officers?

[Answer] You must be very specific and say that the newspaper in charge of promoting this type of conjecture is LE MONDE. It has sought to create anxiety and discomfort in our country. I would not say that it is several mass media sources, but just this controversial newspaper that wants to create chaos in our country.

[Question] Have guerrillas been wiped out in Colombia?

[Answer] If we are honest, we have to say that they have not been eliminated, but then they are not a cause for concern either.

[Question] In view of the fact that Medellin Archbishop Tulio Botero Salazar called for the death penalty, do you hold his views?

[Answer] I feel that Archbishop Botero Salazar always speaks the truth. It seems to me that if such a prominent prelate calls for the death penalty, I can also identify myself with those views. I think in very special cases Colombia needs to apply the death penalty. The problem arises as to how to administer justice in such cases because this would require the utmost integrity.

[Question] Do you think that Colombian justice and particularly the prison system are obsolete?

[Answer] I think that one of the big national problems is the administration of justice. And this was admitted when agreement was reached to hold a constituent assembly. It was done with the primary intention of making the administration of justice more dynamic and effective.

[Question] Would you say that there is total harmony within the Colombian Armed Forces?

[Answer] I think that there has never been such a complete identification of views as there is right now.

[Question] And what do you think about the ranking military officers who, after having retired from active service, have favored one of the presidential hopefuls?

[Answer] The military men who retire and enter civilian life are free to choose their own personal activities. Thus, they have full freedom to hold personal and political views on any matter, views that they feel are good for the country. What I cannot accept or justify--because it is not contained in any military regulation-- is anybody holding political views while in the armed services.

LEFTISTS PROTEST PRESENCE OF CHILEAN LEADER

PA012104Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 1 Mar (AFP)--It was learned here today that several leftist organizations have protested the visit being made to Ecuador by Gen Cesar Mendoza, director general of the carabineros and a member of the Chilean military junta. A communique signed by labor organizations and by Fernando Maldonado, director of the Leftist Broad Front, harshly criticized the Ecuadorean Government for accepting General Mendoza's presence.

The communique says that "our country's de facto government has offended national dignity by imposing on us the odious presence of one of the members of the military junta that is entrenched in Chile, and has been repudiated throughout the world for its crimes against the Chilean people." The protest added that "while the Ecuadorean people are trying to take the path toward a constitutional regime devoted to human rights, the military government has invited a dictator who embodies exactly the opposite of what our nation desires." The communique says finally that "the Chilean carabinero has nothing to do or say in Ecuador. Let him leave the fatherland promptly and not offend our democratic conscience with his repugnant presence."

On the other hand, as part of his official visit, Gen Cesar Mendoza attended a field mass today, accompanied by representatives of the police institutes of Colombia and Venezuela, Brig Gen Francisco Naranjo and Gen Luis Andres Gonzalez, respectively. Alberto Luna Tobar, auxiliary bishop of Quito, officiated at the religious ceremony, which was held at the National Police Institute. It was attended by authorites of the national government and the local police. The high-ranking military chiefs of the three countries are on an official visit here at the invitation of the Ecuadorean Government to participate in activities marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of a professional police force in Ecuador. Today, within the scope of these activities, in the presence of a large crowd the visitors placed wreaths at the monument to the heroes of national independence.

ARRESTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH TERRORIST ATTACKS

PA011235Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Feb 78 p 22 PA

[Text] Guayaquil, 21 Feb--Five persons including a woman have been arrested for questioning on the latest terrorist attacks which occurred in this city and on the hijacking of a SAETA plane. Several activists arrested in 1969 for hijacking an Ecuatoriana Airline plane and taking it to Cuba are among those arrested. They were tried by the second criminal judge and have already served their sentences. The persons arrested are: Carlos Moreno Merino, Vilma Moreno Merino de Quevedo, Antonio Viejo Romero, Holger Raul Moreno Merino and Carlos Molestina Molina. The first three participated in the hijacking of the plane to Cuba and returned to the country in 1971.

Police investigators are trying to establish the identiy of those who recently hijacked the SAETA plane and those who kidnaped and beheaded industrialist Jose Antonio Briz Lopez. There have been no official reports on the investigations. Police sources stated that they will reveal the results of the investigations as soon as the questioning is completed.

CGTP STRIKERS CAUSE LITTLE DISRUPTION

PY011506Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Because of their civic maturity and great prudence, the great majority of workers in this country did not join the 2-day strike sponsored by the General Confederation of Workers of Peru [CGTP]. Although a minority of the workers did not appear at their jobs on Monday, either because they had joined the strike or because they could not find transport, they returned to work yesterday, making it possible to restore commerce, industry and other activities almost completely.

The return of the workers was due to the climate of tranquillity and the guarantees granted by the revolutionary government for the development of all activities. An improvement of urban transport could also be observed.

Reports from various parts of the country have confirmed the normalization of activities. In fact, most of the population have expressed their rejection of the labor strike and have responded to the repeated appeals for national cohesion and unity.

In Cusco, the tranquillity reigning in the city and the normal activity were attributed to the responsible and conscientious cooperation of the citizens. In fact, yesterday, the second day of the 48-hour strike decreed by the CGTP, was a normal day in Cusco. About 200 people marched through the streets in Cusco urging that the strike be carried out, but this request was met by the remarkable indifference of the citizens, who showed that they were willing to work.

In Arequipa the workers revealed strong support for the policy of the government and the development of the country by going to work normally for the second consecutive day.

In Iquitos the announced 48-hour strike was no success. Five of the nine banks in that city restricted activities but the others continued completely normal activities, as was the case in the various production sectors.

In Tacna the strike had limited effects. Also in Moquegua there was complete tranquillity, just as in Ilo, where only banking was somewhat affected.

POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY REGISTERED FOR ELECTIONS

PY011905Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Ulises Montoya, president of the National Election Jury, has announced that the Popular Christian Party has been definitely registered for the 4 June elections. The following six entities thus have definitely been registered so far: Popular Action, the National Labor and Campesino Front, the Christian Democratic Party, the Peruvian Democratic Movement, the Aprista Party, and the Popular Christian Party. The National Union, the Popular Democratic Unity and the Peruvian Communist Party have been provisionally registered.

Meanwhile, two entities are still awaiting registration, since they have not yet solved the irregularities observed in their membership lists. They are the Popular Worker, Campesino and Student Front [FOCEP] and the Peruvian Democratic Reform Party. They have until Friday to solve their problems. Otherwise they will be excluded from the electoral process.

DIM REPORTEDLY ARRESTS COLOMBIANS FOR ESPIONAGE

PA011947Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas--The Military Intelligence Directorate [DIM] has arrested four Colombians who presumably were engaged in espionage activities in the oil city of Maracaibo, in Venezuela's western region, official sources reported today. The reports, attributed to Venezuelan military sources, indicate that those arrested were brought to Caracas after DIM agents determined that the Colombians were engaged in obtaining information on military installations and taking photographs of garrisons and other installations.

The Colombian Embassy in Caracas declined to deny or confirm the report. No comment, an official of the diplomatic mission said. The report does not say when the arrests were made but notes that three of the men identified themselves as agents of Colombia's Administrative Department of Security (DAS). DAS is an official Colombian body for security and criminal investigations. Official sources who asked not to be identified said that according to preliminary investigations the alleged DAS agents had ceased being members of the organization some time ago.

According to the newspaper EL NACIONAL, one of the arrested was identified as Mauricio (Batis), a merchant living in Maracaibo. The newspaper noted that (Batis) was born in Colombia, but obtained Venezuelan citizenship several days ago. The other three were not identified by name and no further details could be obtained on them.

DEFENSE MINISTRY TO CUT BUDGET BY 196 MILLION BOLIVARES

PA011759Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The announced budget cut will involve 2 billion bolivares in nonpriority areas of public administration, according to an announcement made by Finance Minister Jose Luis Silva Luongo. The minister said that even if oil revenues increase, the cut will be maintained. The finance minister said that the Defense Ministry will cut its budget by 196 million bolivares. He said, however, that the budget cut will not affect wages. He added that neither will it affect the continuation or initiation of public works or services of public interest.

MINISTER BLAMES ULTRALEFTISTS FOR STUDENT VIOLENCE

PA011814Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage has said that the recent student disturbances are part of a plan to disrupt the coming presidential elections. The minister said that the burning of cars, the injuring of several policemen and widespread violence are part of a program of systematic provocation designed to produce more deaths.

The minister said that at no time do these demonstrations reflect student plans. He said that the ultraleftists are to blame for this situation.

FOREIGN SECRETARY REAFFIRMS STAND ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

PA011230Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (AFP)--Mexico today officially reaffirmed its position regarding Belize, the Panama Canal and its neutrality in the Nicaraguan situation. These were the three topics that Foreign Relations Secretary Santiago Roel discussed with foreign correspondents during a dinner he gave in their honor.

Regarding Nicaragua, Roel said that Mexico will maintain its traditional nonintervention policy because what is happening in that country is a matter of self-determination that the Nicaraguans themselves must solve.

In relation to Panama, Roel said that some recent statements made abroad about Mexico's position were not correct and that Mexico continues to support Panama's aspirations to fully recover its sovereignty over the Canal Zone.

In the case of Belize, he reaffirmed that Mexico has no territorial interests there despite its historic rights, and it is in favor of a peacefully negotiated solution between Guatemala and Great Britain. He mentioned the fact that 126 nations out of the 149 which make up the United Nations also support this position.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH SPAIN--Trade between Mexico and Spain this year is expected to reach $200 million. Economic relations will be strengthened with the establishment of joint enterprises and with Mexico's purchase of fishing boats and oil tankers. This information was released yesterday by Spanish Ambassador to Mexico Luis Coronel de Palma who added that at this time there is no situation that could mar relations between both nations and that, on the contrary, every day these are strengthened more. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA]

CZECHOSLOVAK COOPERATION--The Mexican Agrarian Reform Secretariat and the Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic have drawn up a large-scale program of technology, training and management expertise exchange for agricultural industries. The Mexican agrarian reform representative, Manuel Huerta Gonzalez, and the Czechoslovak first deputy minister of foreign trade, along with Ambassador Josef Rutta and other officials have set the groundwork for an agreement to this effect. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA]

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS--Mexico City, 28 Feb--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo today appointed Roberto de Rosenweig Diaz and Oscar Gonzalez Cesar ambassadors to the Federal Republic of Germany and Tunisia, respectively. Rosenweig is a former ambassador to the United Nations. Gonzalez Cesar will have residence in Algiers, where he is also ambassador. [Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA]

ITALIAN PETROCHEMICAL AGREEMENT--The Mexican Petroleum Institute will sign a cooperation agreement with an Italian oil company in Rome. The agreement will set up cooperation between the two organizations for providing technical services to the petroleum and petrochemical industries of other countries, especially in Latin America. [Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA]

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONFIRMS PLAN TO REPLACE MOISES TORRIJOS

PA020051Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed this afternoon a Madrid-datelined report that the Panamanian Government had asked for the approval of Hugo Torrijos Herrera's appointment as ambassador to Spain 2 months ago.

The approval of Hugo Torrijos' appointment as Panamanian envoy to the government of King Juan Carlos I was requested through normal channels and is currently being negotiated, the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry reported. If the Spanish Government agrees to the request for approval, Hugo Torrijos Herrera will replace his brother Moises in the Panamanian Embassy in Madrid. Moises Torrijos will retire within the next few months.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that, in addition to being of retirement age, Moises Torrijos said he wants to return to Panama because of his poor health. This will be Moises Torrijos Herrera's 7th year as Panamanian ambassador to Madrid.

PRESIDENT INDICATES EMERGENCY PLAN BANKRUPT

PA012000Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] I do not wish to deceive you. The emergency plan has ended. I am trying to see where we are going to get more funds for it, President Demetrio Basilio Lakas told a large number of women who were seeking jobs [under the emergency program].

The group had gone from the Justo Arosemena Palace to the presidency, where they were initially received by Dr Berta Torrijos de Arozemena, director of the Panamanian Special Rehabilitation Institute [Instituto Panameno de Habilitacion Especial--IPHE] and later by the president of the republic, who came from his office to speak with the group.

After listening to the president's words, the group left the presidency.

ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

AU221115 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1100 GMT 22 Feb 78 AU

[Text] The president of the Republic of Panama, Demetrio Basilio Lakas, has received Romanian Ambassador to this country Dumitru Moianu, who presented his credentials. On this occasion, cordial messages were exchanged between the Panamanian president and President Nicolae Ceausescu. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive evolution of Romanian-Panamanian relations and their desire to make progress in areas of common interest to the two countries. They also emphasized the similarity between Romania's and Panama's positions on various international issues, especially regarding the establishment of a new world economic order.

EL SALVADOR

SECURITY MINISTER DENIES CLOSING OF NICARAGUA BORDER

PA011739Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier said yesterday that the border has not been closed, thus denying reports published by a morning newspaper.

Charpentier said that the border is not now and has never been closed at Penas Blancas and that Nicaraguan soldiers have not been crossing into Costa Rican territory, as was stated in the reports. He added that what happened and what caused the confusion was that passengers of the Condor line and some drivers of heavy trucks decided not to cross into Costa Rica because it was late in the afternoon. They decided to stay on the Nicaraguan side. I have been informed that they crossed the border normally yesterday afternoon, Charpentier said.

Rejects Smuggling Charge

PA011742Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1215 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Public Security Minister Mario Charpentier said yesterday that he categorically rejects any smuggling charge against the crewmen of the Costa Rican boat that went aground in Cuban waters. Charpentier said that he does not know precisely what goods the Costa Ricans were carrying but that it had been decided from the start that the boat had to go through customs and that, for this reason, contraband cannot be presumed or alleged.

The charges are unjust. Any item on the boat will be appraised [aforado] by the customs authorities, as has been the case with other patrol boats on other occasions, Charpentier concluded.

ELECTIONS COUNCIL REPORTS ON PREPARATIONS

PA012145Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Central Elections Council today reported that 1,875,200 citizens have registered to vote in the partial elections of 12 March. That figure shows an increase of 122,994 voters compared with the number registered in the 20 February 1977 presidential elections, in which President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero was the winner.

The top Salvadoran electoral body said it has everything ready for the elections on the second Sunday in March. It said it hopes that the largest possible number of voters will take part. It is estimated that 80 percent of the registered citizens voted in the last election, an unprecedented figure in the history of this Central American nation of 4.5 million people.

Only the National Conciliation Party (PCN) and the rightist Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS)--which decided to do so at the last minute--are participating in the elections. The opposition groups--Christian Democracy, National Revolutionary Movement and the Nationalist Democratic Union--have offered no candidates, alleging a lack of guarantees for free elections.

FPL CLAIMS CREDIT FOR DYNAMITE ATTACKS

PA011735Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1351 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) last night claimed credit for four dynamite attacks in various parts of the country.

According to the terrorists' message, early yesterday morning armed "popular militia" units carried out a "28 February martyrs" operation by detonating explosive charges. Some of the dynamite charges mentioned by the FPL were placed at the home of San Miguel Mayoress Gloria Giralt de Garcia Prieto, in the mayor's office of Nejapa and in the headquarters of the National Conciliation Party (PCN) in San Vicente and Ilobasco.

The terrorists explained that they also distributed the communique "Once Again, Bourgeois Elections," in which the FPL outlines its position with regard to the elections scheduled for 12 March.

GUATEMALA

BUREAUCRATS REJECT PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSAL, CONTINUE STRIKE

PA020314Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0230 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The general assembly of the State Workers Emergency Committee (CETE) agreed tonight to continue the strike begun 7 days ago to demand a 50-percent salary increase for public employees. Meeting at the Instituto Normal de Senoritas de Belen, the bureaucrats decided not to accept the increase announced last night by President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia, which they regard as discriminatory and as a measure that is not beneficial to all workers.

The government proposal calls for a salary increase for public employees on a scale that gives greater benefits to those who earn less. Furthermore, the CETE workers feel that the increase announced by Laugerud Garcia "is not guaranteed until Congress approves it."

Several speakers delivered speeches at the assembly, stressing the justness of their requests on the basis of the high cost of living.

CETE represents 85,000 of Guatemala's 140,000 state employees and the strike it has been promoting has paralyzed several basic public services such as the postal service, the schools and the hospitals.

Today, the strikers received the support of all the employees of the Guatemalan Social Security Institute, an autonomous institution, and of the important National Confederation of Labor Unity, which consists of private sector employees and workers. The university and high school students also abandoned their classrooms in support of the strike.

Tonight several high school students seized the building of the National Central Boys Institute, which is located in the Guatemalan capital's downtown area, four blocks from the Government House, in support of the government workers. The government, meanwhile, has remained silent about the strikers' rejection of the president's increase proposal.

With Sunday's elections, in which three military officers are running for president, only 4 days away, the movement continues to spread. The strike may hinder the elections.

Bakers Call General Strike

PA011724Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1441 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The union of Bakers and Associated Workers of Guatemala today called a general strike to demand salary increases and better working conditions. The strike began during the night shift, which was supposed to make the bread to be sold this morning.

Stores now have only the bread left over from yesterday, which is being snatched up by hundreds of housewives who, confused by inconclusive reports, did not believe that the strike was near. The strike had been announced last week by union spokesmen but was postponed in hopes that a settlement would be reached.

The bakers are demanding a salary increase of 80 cents (at par with the U.S. dollar), which would leave their minimum salary at 3 quetzals a day.

Private Employees Support Strike

PA012007Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[By Mauricio Barrera]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 1 Mar--The powerful National Committee of Labor Unity (CNUS) today declared the support of private employees for the strike staged by state workers in demand of salary increases. This morning the CNUS also asked the nation's labor unions to participate in a march to the government palace tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, in support of state workers.

The support of the labor organization, which consists of private enterprise workers, is turning the government workers' strike, which is in its 7th day, into a general conflict and threatens to prevent the scheduled presidential elections from being held this Sunday.

MEDIA REJECT LIMITATIONS ON ELECTION COVERAGE

PA011701Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1645 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan communications media announced today that they will not accept any pressure on the part of the authorities to limit their coverage of the electoral process on Sunday, 5 March.

A communique issued by the "media association" indicates that, above all, the organization will not accept the imposition of a "national radio and television network," as happened 4 years ago. "A measure of that kind would only substantiate the belief that there will be fraud in the tabulation of electoral results," the organization says.

The Electoral Council had hinted that an official radio network might be formed on Sunday "if it is convenient or necessary." However, President Kjell Laugerud Garcia had announced that this time there would be no limitation on coverage by newsmen and the media. He even omitted the special accreditation required on other occasions. On the contrary, and by order of the executive, on this occasion the credentials issued by the media itself or by press associations will be honored.

In its communique today the media association states that "freedom of information is a right conferred by the constitution of the republic." It clearly warned that it will not obey any order that limits this freedom.

PDC THREATENS VIOLENCE IN EVENT OF ELECTION FRAUD

PA012020Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1934 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party [PDC] today announced it is willing to "go out into the streets" if there is a delay or "fraud" in the 5 March elections.

Party spokesmen repeated that "any measure designed to delay elections or alter electoral vote counts will find us ready to struggle for the people's will to be respected."

A poll taken by the party itself assures them a victory with a margin of 56 percent. This certainty of victory and its willingness to struggle was expressed last night when about 1,000 Christian Democrats in a 150-car caravan toured downtown Guatemala City shouting "fraud, to the streets."

Obstructing traffic to force other drivers and pedestrians to stop and listen, the Christian Democrats predicted "certain victory" of their presidential and vice presidential candidates as well as the candidate for Guatemala City mayor.

Christian Democracy is running Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez as presidential candidate with lawyer Rene de Leon Schlotter for vice president and lawyer Vinicio Cerezo for Quatemala City mayor.

HONDURAS

HONDURAS WITHDRAWS FROM INTERNATIONAL COFFEE MARKET

PA011737Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Tegucigalpa--By decision of the Board of Directors of the Honduran Coffee Institute, Honduras yesterday officially withdrew from the international coffee market. The decision was announced by the new manager of the institute, Fernando Montes, who said the measure was adopted during a meeting of coffee growers held last week.

Mexico was the first country to adopt such a decision.

NICARAGUA

FURTHER MATERIALS ON CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Masaya Casualty List

PA011707Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1635 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--At least 20 persons have died during various armed clashes in Nicaragua since the National Guard decided to seize by force the districts in Masaya that were under the control of rebellious Indians. The toll grew to 20 dead, with some 30 wounded and 50 arrested when a count was made based on the latest report issued today by the Red Cross in Masaya.

The Red Cross in Masaya this morning released a list of 11 persons who died during the army's action to eliminate resistance there.

It is believed that the death toll in Monimbo is higher than that reported by the Red Cross because the Indians bury their dead without notifying the proper authorities.

It was also reported today that guerrillas held up a bank in this capital yesterday. Masked men held up the branch of the Central Bank, of which Somoza is the largest shareholder. The men made off with 68,000 cordobas ($9,700).

Somoza Asked To Resign

PA011711Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1636 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 1 Mar (AFP)--A group of Nicaraguans, including personalities being mentioned to form a government should Gen Anastasio Somoza resign his post, issued a communique published here today. The document is signed, among others, by Carlos Tunnerman, rector of the Autonomous University of Nicaragua, writer Jose Coronel Urtrecho, and Sergio Ramirez, secretary general of the Central American University's superior council.

The document condemns the repression underway in Nicaragua and charges the Somoza regime with "staining the country with blood." The signatories also condemn the assassination of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, former director of the daily LA PRENSA of Managua.

"We are convinced," the document states, "that the only solution for the tragic problem of Nicaragua is for Somoza to leave forever and let us Nicaraguans rebuild our country and recover our historic initiative, free of the viciousness of Somoza's regime and all it stands for."

Antigovernment Demonstration Quelled

PA011751Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1719 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Mar (AFP)--Some 20 dead and dozens injured and arrested was the toll of disorders over the past few days in Nicaragua, while today the National Guard quelled antigovernment demonstrations in the capital and groups of civilians continued to offer resistance to troops in Masaya.

According to reports received in Managua, tension prevailed in various parts of the country, with repeated public calls for the resignation of President Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

New armed clashes occurred at 0230 (0830 GMT) in the Monimbo and Santa Rosa districts of the city of Masaya, 30 km east of Managua, where civilian groups armed with revolvers continued to offer resistance despite the fact that the army is in control of the situation. Newsmen who entered the sector of the Monimbo battle, which has lasted for 8 days, counted a total of 17 dead civilians.

In Managua the police fired into the air this morning to disperse a student demonstration in the northeastern part of the city. Other groups were dispersed in other sectors of the capital as they were organizing corteges to accompany the remains of three university students who were killed Monday night at the national university by police patrols.

At the same time, businessmen and schools closed their doors in a 24-hour strike in protest of what they describe as the "massacre" of the Indian population of Masaya and the assassination of university students.

The bodies of two army informers, popularly known as "ears," were found last night on the outskirts of Masaya. The informers had been taken as hostages shortly before the final army offensive against the insurgents in that city. The local press had published photographs of the two informers tied to a tree by the rebels. They were apparently executed by the rebels when the military offensive began.

Newsmen's March Dispersed

PA011904Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1840 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Managua police patrols violently dispersed a march staged by newsmen here this morning in commemoration of the "day of the Nicaraguan newsman." Policemen led by Col Alesio Gutierrez used tear gas bombs and fired shots in the air to disperse the demonstration.

About 200 persons marched with the newsmen. University journalism students and representatives of labor centrals participated in the march organized by the Managua Radio Newsmen's Association.

On route to the newsmen association's center and the place where LA PRENSA director Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was murdered on 10 January, Ignacio Briones Torres, Manuel Espinoza, Pablo Candia and Alberto Reyes addressed the crowd. In their speeches they condemned the closure of two radio stations by the National Radio and Television Office, the existence of the code which regulates electronic information media--called the "black code"--and supported the proples struggle for a change in the Nicaraguan sociopolitical structures.

The dispersing of the newsmen's peaceful march occurred at Bolivar Avenue in downtown Managua after a wreath was placed at the lightposts near where Chamorro Cardenal, a tireless fighter for freedom of the press in America, was murdered.

Police dispersed the newsmen as they were going toward the national palace to deliver a protest against the closing of Mi Preferida and Radio Mundial radio stations to Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora. The closure was ordered by police judge Luis Ocon for broadcasting news allegedly in violation of the radio and television code.

The authorities also made some arrests at the place the march was dispersed, an act of repression which was noted by foreign correspondents on the scene.

Disorder in Leon

PA012307Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2217 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Reports are circulating that the National Guard clashed last night in (?Leon), 46 km west of Managua, with armed demonstrators who took to the streets to demand Somoza's resignation. The report could not be confirmed today either with the Red Cross or with the (?Leon) police because communications with Managua were broken.

A reporter who toured Masaya, where there had been an uprising in the Indian ghetto several days ago, said that the city is calm. A Red Cross communique reported, however, that service by first-aid mobile units was suspended there because the National Guard was arresting people injured during clashes with the security forces.

Violence Spreads to Chinandega

PA011853Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1847 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (LATIN)--The wave of violence gripping several Nicaraguan cities spread today to Chinandega, an important agricultural and industrial center 132 km northwest of Managua.

Inhabitants of that city told LATIN over the telephone that the National Guard fired on student demonstrators in front of two private schools seized by the youths. "Initial reports indicate that there are several wounded," the sources said.

LA PRENSA Scores Destruction

PA020242Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0105 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (LATIN)--The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, which carried a black band of mourning across its front page today, reported that 21 people died during the clashes between the National Guard and the Indian ghetto of Monimbo in the city of Masaya. The paper, whose editor Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was killed on 10 January, identified 16 of the victims of last Monday's fighting.

"The confusion that reigns in the city and the citizens' great fear of the continuous patrolling and raids make it hard for the distrustful people of Monimbo to supply any specific details," the evening newspaper reported.

In an editorial entitled "Stoppage Due to National Mourning," newsman Pablo Antonio Cuadra wonders: "Where is Nicaragua going, down the ravine of violence and destruction?"

"Is destruction, the dangerous sowing of uncontrollable hatred, violence upon violence and death upon death the price that Nicaragua has to pay for Somoza?" Cuadra's editorial asks.

"LA PRENSA, which has already paid a devastating quota of blood as exacted by the regime, again feels the deepest kind of mourning for Nicaragua," Cuadra's editorial says. "Therefore, LA PRENSA with its mourning issue joins today's stoppage, which is a stoppage of national mourning, a civic mourning and an appeal for a halt to repression and bloodshed," the editorial stresses.

"No law or reason of state in the world can authorize a declaration of war against the people by rashly opening fire on a defenseless civilian population or inside a campus full of young students."

Nicaragua celebrated newsmen's day today, and LA PRENSA noted that its editorial calls for "a halt to genocide, an end to this fratricidal killing which, instead of putting out the fire, is stirring it up by sparking uncontrollable vendettas and violence."

SOMOZA ISSUES GREETING MESSAGE FOR NEWSMEN

PA020405Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0250 GMT 2 Mar 78 PA

[President Somoza's message to Nicaraguan newsmen on the occasion of newsmen's day--read by announcer]

[Text] Distinguished gentlemen: It was the Liberal Party government itself which established, through a bill passed by congress, the celebration of the day of Nicaraguan newsman on 1 March to render the honor due to Nicaraguan newsmen. On this day we also pay homage to Gen Rigoberto Cabezas, the founder of journalism in Nicaragua.

My government, a fervent defender of every aspect of freedom, reaffirms its irrevocable decision to maintain individual rights, the right of news reporting and the right to be informed with truth and objectivity, according to a philosophical and practical foundation which supports the whole meaning of human rights. In consequence of this, however, I take this occasion to make a fervent appeal to all newsmen in my country to present to the Nicaraguan people a real and objective account of what is happening. Reports must be accurate and unbiased and not stir partisan passion or personal animosity.

A journalism which is responsible and respectful is the best protection for a nation which aspires to develop in peace. Therefore, I repeat what I said a few days ago about journalism being a constructive activity which must help the authorities in the delicate task of governing.

This is not just a day of newsmen of good will, but also a day for those who appreciate and respect the noble duties that newsmen perform. I repeat my promise to maintain press freedom and I urge newsmen to renew their efforts to keep the Nicaraguan people well informed with patriotic duty and respect for the truth.

[Signed] A. Somoza

FOREIGN MINISTER QUINTANA HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE

Comments on Human Rights

PA020145Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2358 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana said today that the Nicaraguan Government would "view with favor" the arrival of a delegation of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission in Nicaragua. He said that in this way the Human Rights Commission can obtain firsthand information, by meeting with state and private organizations. Thus it can "confirm that Nicaraguans can commit mistakes, that we are live by civilized rules and that we are willing to recognize errors."

He said he believes the Nicaraguan Government is making "all possible efforts to see that human rights are fully respected and upheld." He said there is a type of "opening" by the government so that a human rights commission will be well received in Nicaragua if it decides to visit the country.

Previously, the minister had said that Nicaragua has already sent a report on the human rights situation in Nicaragua to Andres Aguilar, chairman of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, which consists of seven members.

The foreign minister said that Nicaragua has the obligation of full compliance with all provisions of the international conventions and commitments signed by the government. Nevertheless, Quintana said that Nicaragua continues to believe that the concept of human rights must be reformed and modified. "We are waiting for this," he added. He said that the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry is willing to answer all questions regarding the respect of human rights "at all social levels."

The minister also said that the Anastasio Somoza government has its "doors open" to ratify conventions on human rights, including the San Jose convention.

FSLN Raids, Extradition Issue

PA020000Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2324 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (AFP)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintant said her today that the recent attacks of the Sandinist Front against the military garrisons of Rivas and Granada in southern Nicaragua were planned in the Soviet or Cuban embassies in Costa Rica.

The minister made this statement during a news conference with the foreign press. Quintana was referring to the attacks on the border garrisons of Rivas and Granada on 2 February during a thwarted Sandinist offensive against the Somoza government. Nevertheless, he added that Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo has assured him of a "new era of relations," promising Costa Rican neutrality during his term which begins in July.

The Nicaraguan foreign affairs minister also said that the Anastasio Somoza government has accepted the Venezuelan proposal for sending an OAS commission to observe the exercise of human rights in Nicaragua.

Quintana revealed that the Nicaraguan Government has asked the Inter-American Press Association, which is currently meeting in Cancum, Mexico, to appoint a jurist to review the proceedings dealing with the assassination of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. According to the Nicaraguan minister, this will show that his government "is bent on leaving no doubts whatsoever regarding the motives, planning and execution of this infamous assassination."

Regarding the possible extradition of Pedro Ramos, naturalized U.S. citizen of Cuban origin residing in Miami, who is considered the mastermind of the crime, Quantana said that his extradition might be requested at the end of the trial against four Nicaraguans, and if Ramos is tried "in absentia." The minister said that for this extradition Nicaragua could invoke the treaty signed with the United States in 1965, but "our constitution does not accept it for our own citizens; so the U.S. Government could invoke reciprocity to deny the extradition."

Further on Request to IAPA

PA012321Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2025 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Government today asked the Inter-American Press Association (IAPA), meeting in Cancun, Mexico, to designate a jurist from its organization to revise the procedure followed in the judicial investigation of the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. To this effect, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Mexico Ernesto Navarro Richardson met in Cancun with the IAPA directors.

IAPA's response to the Nicaraguan Government's request was not yet known today when Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana made this announcement in his office before a group of foreign correspondents. According to the Nicaraguan foreign minister, President Anastasio Somoza's administration is very interested in having the IAPA jurist come "in order to counteract the international campaign against Nicaragua, which is deforming its noble image."

"The government is concerned regarding all that has any connection with the total clearing up of this disgusting assassination because the judicial power's prestige [is at stake as well as] that of all Nicaraguans," the foreign minister said.

According to Minister Quintana, the jurist designated by IAPA--if it chooses to designate one--may come speak to the Public Ministry representative and, without removing the appropriate files from the local court, may examine them "because there might be mistakes, ommissions or even extra limitations" in the procedure followed.

CASTRO, RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ VIEW AFRICA POLICY, U.S. TIES

LD011019Y Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Feb 78 pp 1, 6 LD

[Marcel Niedergang dispatch: "Cuban Leaders Say They Do Not Want To Extend Their Quarrel With the United States"]

[Text] Havana--We were able to have several meetings with the top leaders of the Havana government last week. They revealed that their international policy is based on the following broad outlines: a constant emphasis on solidarity with African countries in the name of proletarian internationalism; a categorical refusal to reject any of the principles of the Cuban revolution; the conviction that Cuba's viewpoint is considered seriously in Moscow; a desire to negotiate complete and genuine normalization with the United States as soon as the U.S. trade embargo has been lifted, and the desire to take every opportunity of seeking political solutions for existing conflicts, especially in the Horn of Africa.

Fidel Castro gave us a cordial welcome at a villa in the Miramar district of Havana Friday evening for a meeting which he wanted to be kept informal. He seemed to us to be very optimisitic and confident and, at the same time, anxious to lose no chance of promoting international detente and to maintain this "discreet" attitude at a delicate time in the international situation.

The No 1 Cuban, who has no hesitation in giving his personal opinion on all questions whether topical or not, does not think the time is right to comment publicly on the situation in Africa. Havana does not want to say anything which could be interpreted as a "Cuban lesson" on "revolution" to friendly African governments which have appealed for Cuban military and civilian aid. At all events, Fidel Castro does not seem at all worried about the internal consequences or implications of Cuba's policy in Africa. He readily pointed out that solidarity with the peoples of black Africa is traditional (as early as 1965 Che Guevara established close contacts with the guerrilla Gaston Soumialot in the former Belgian Congo and took a direct part in the armed struggle in this country with about 100 fellow Cubans). The top Cuban leader also seems convinced that the Cuban people are in total agreement with aid to Angola and other African countries. Moreover, he has already stated on several occasions that hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers were prepared to fight in Angola.

With a broad, good-humored smile, Castro left us understand that Cuba's main problem at the moment is how to moderate the numerous requests for military aid coming from Africa. He indicated in passing that one of the Cuban Government's major objectives is not to extend its quarrel with the United States but to continue the actual collaboration which has been established between the two countries and seek means of normalizing the situation.

We have had other talks in the past few days with Council of State Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez in which he explained the principal themes of Cuban foreign policy in great detail. Western observors regard him as "No 3" in the regime, and he accompanied Fidel Castro on his African tour in March 1977, during which he took part in the Aden conference with the Ethiopian and Somali leaders. He has closely followed all developments in the Horn of Africa conflict. He also plays a leading role in the informal negotiations with the government in Washington and he receives and briefs the frequent U.S. business delegations to Havana.

According to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, the information and maps published in the U.S. press to illustrate the extent of the Cuban presence in Africa "are a bunch of lies." "We pointed this out to the U.S. congressmen who visited us," he said. "Moreover, I was pleased to see that a big New York paper severely criticized this U.S. intelligence information."

The Council of State vice president, who is about 60 and very alert, went on to give details. "We have only three or four officials in Uganda and they are responsible for our diplomatic representation. Our ambassador in Kampala does not even reside there. Hundreds of Cuban soldiers allegedly pack the streets of Benghazi in Libya. When I went there with Fidel and our delegation during our African tour, we were the only Cubans in Libya. That has not changed. Our embassy is staffed by five people."

[Question] What about Equatorial Guinea?

[Answer] "We sent about a dozen instructors to train the local armed forces in this country--that is all. On the other hand, we have a lot of technicians and advisers in Tanzania helping to build roads and secondary schools similar to those found throughout the Cuban countryside. There are a lot of Cubans in Mozambique too, 343 to be exact, all technicians, engineers, doctors and nurses provinding essentially civil aid."

[Question] Isn't it clear that the Ethiopian problem is complex because of the ethnic issues and the nationalist demands in Eritrea?

[Answer] The problem of Eritrea is not a current problem. What is at issue today is the Ethiopian Government's struggle to eliminate the Somali invasion. It is certain that Eritrea in the days of Haile Selassi was not the same as it is under Mengistu. We Cubans, as consistent revolutionaries, are attempting, and have always attempted, to reach political and peaceful solutions, even with Siad Barre.

On the other hand, those who, from abroad, used to help the negus to maintain his hold over Eritrea are now supporting the movements in conflict with the central government in Addis Ababa. Preserving Ethiopia's territorial integrity is an imperative condition for resolving the problems of all the ethnic groups coexisting in that country....

[Question] What is the explanation for Cuba's decision in favor of Ethiopia? Somalia and Ethiopia are two Third World countries, both of which espouse socialism.

[Answer] It is not we who opted for Ethiopia, it is Somalia which is attacking Ethiopia. In March 1977 Fidel spent almost 8 hours in Aden with the Mogadiscio and Addis leaders.

I was privileged to attend that impassioned debate, which lasted all night. At dawn Siad Barre solemnly declared that his forces would never attack Ethiopia. We know what followed. In the name of socialism, Said Barre used to seek aid from the USSR and Cuba. In the name of socialism he is now seeking it from the NATO countries.

There is an important point of history: When Ethiopia sought our military aid there was no question of threats from Somalia. We held--and I personally held--several friendly talks with both the Ethiopian and Somali leaders, here in Cuba and then at the time of the Colombo conference of nonalined countries. We attempted to promote a political solution--a federation of the Horn or any other formula acceptable to the two sides. That was not possible. Nevertheless, we have not dropped the idea of such a political solution.

With respect to Cuba's aid for the POLISARIO, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez specified that this is "strictly political" support. "It has been said that Cuban military personnel are in the Sahara on the side of POLISARIO. I assert that this is totally untrue. Our representative, Martha Jimenez, a member of the UN commission of inquiry on Western Sahara, has traveled through the country. Following its inquiry we are convinced that the vast majority of Saharans want independence. We therefore demand implementation of the principle of self-determination on their behalf. We are neither in favor of nor opposed to the Moroccans or in favor of or opposed to the Mauritanians, but are in favor of respect for this principle of self-determination without interference of whatever kind from foreign powers."

The Cuban leader referred to the latest U.S. warnings with respect to continued Cuban involvement in Africa--warnings which he considers "moderate" and made "without brandishing the threat of the enormous U.S. military superiority." This is, he considers, "a tone which contrasts sharply with that of Kissinger, whose one thought was to eliminate us from the international game." According to Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, they are warnings connected with "obstacles of a temporary nature," which will be "necessarily surmounted." "Our African policy," Carlos Rafael Rodriguez added, "is based on principles which will be better understood and respected every day. Cuba grants it military aid only to legitimate and friendly governments which have requested it. Cuban troops have only been and will only be sent to Africa at the request of governments. Cuba is not helping subversion but, as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations once acknowledged, is taking part in a stabilization operation to combat subversion.

OFFICIALS RECEIVE DOMINICAN COMMUNIST LEADER

Minister Vecino Alegret

FL011555Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1518 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Fernando Vecino Alegret, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of higher education, has received the delegation of the Dominican Communist Party headed by its secretary general, Narciso Isa Conde, who is the organization's presidential candidate. During the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and camaraderie, the Cuban minister extensively briefed the visitors on the current and future development of higher education in our country.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez

FL011840Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has received the delegation headed by Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party. During the talks, relations between the two parties, the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other matters of mutual interest were examined.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DPRK

FL012331Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Antonio Esquivel and Won Tong-ku, chairmen of the Cuban-Korean economic, scientific and technical consultative commission, have signed in this capital the protocol of the sixth session of the aforementioned commission. The document signed by Esquivel and Won, chemical industry ministers of Cuba and the DPRK, calls for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of food and light industries, transportation and public health.

Blas Roca Meets Won Tong-ku

FL012323Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Blas Roca Calderio, National People's Government Assembly president and Council of State vice president, has received DPRK Chemical Industry Minister Won Tong-ku. Attending the meeting were Chemical Industry Minister Antonio Esquivel,(Van Myong-yu), DPRK charge d'affaires in Cuba, and Vasilio Rodriguez and Julio Allon, officials in the Chemical Industry Ministry and State Committee for Economic Cooperation, respectively. During the meeting, which took place in an atmosphere of frank camaraderie, topics of mutual interest on existing and future cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

FMC LETTER REPORTS ON PAST, FUTURE EFFORTS

FL011530Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban Women's Federation [FMC] National Committee and its cooperation council have sent a letter to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in which last work period's efforts are critically examined and new goals are set down. The document terms the gains made in 1977 significant, rating the degree of revolutionary awareness reached by the woman, her ideological development and active and determined participation in all spheres of human activity as being the greatest so far.

The FMC National Committee and its cooperation council rate very positively the jump in quality attained in the consciousness of the people and in their current concept about the full exercise of women's equality. Likewise, it points out that the goals being sought will step up women's active participation in our revolutionary process so that they may become increasingly useful and may play the role they deserve to have in the socialist society.

We will work for strengthening in the masses of women a consciousness of producers, it adds, and not of consumers. The women will make a contribution to the work effort and to the community, to the battle for savings, efficiency, for quality, for raising productivity and for progress. Throughout the letter sent to Fidel, the FMC commits itself to fulfill in 1978 all scheduled tasks and any others requiring their contribution, to fulfill whatever missions are necessary in the sacred realization of the principles of proletarian internationalism.

In closing, the letter states: Fidel, you can rest assured that you can count, as always, on that real army, on the impressing political force of the Cuban women.

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN TELEVISION CHIEF--Hungarian television chief Richard Nagy has made an extensive tour of the Valles de Picadura livestock breeding farm. He is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television. Nagy was received by the farm's director, Ramon Castro, who gave him a tour of the facilitiy. Among the communities visited were Pena del Leon in Valles de Picadura and Victoria de Vietnam in Ceiba Mocha. [Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL]

LABOR CONGRESS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE--The national organizing committee for the 14th labor congress, which will be held late this year, has been formed at a meeting of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] National Committee. The organizing committee will be responsible for convening the congress and directing all activities related to preparations for and development of the congress. Roberto Veiga is the committee chairman and Agapito Figuero is deputy chairman. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 78 FL]

CARICOM OFFICIALS MEET TO DISCUSS BELIZE INDEPENDENCE

FL011605Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Feb 78 pp 1, 6 FL

[Text] Belmopan put into effect elaborate security measures last Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 20 and 21, as UDP [United Democratic Party] opposition demonstrators showed their determination to protest the presence of CARICOM government officials in Belize.

The officials, who included the foreign ministers of Barbados and Jamaica, came at the invitation of the premier of Belize for a two-day meeting. They came to consider what to do about independence for Belize and to help the premier out of his dilemma--the dilemma being how to settle the Guatemalan problem and go on to independence without appearing to be giving away Belize land.

Those who responded to the premier's invitation were Mr. Paul Adderley, foreign minister of Barbados; and Mr. Don Blackman, Barbados ambassador to the United Nations; Mr. P.J. Patterson, Jamaica's foreign minister; Dr. Cedric Grant, Guyana's ambassador to London; Mr. Frank Abdulla, Trinidad/Tobago's ambassador to the United Nations; Senator Henry Bullen of Grenada; Mr. Harcourt Turnquest, the Bahamas representative to the Commonwealth Secretariat; and Mr. Abbas Bundi, personal representative of the secretary general of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Demonstrators, not knowing the estimated arrival time of the Commonwealth officials, took up positions along the haulover road opposite the Pollotti Convent with placards and signs saying "Go Back", "Referendum Before Independence", and "No confidence in George Price". But it was three hours before the official motorcade appeared.

At the approach of the first car the demonstrators surged forward as of one mind, blocking the lead car. This tactic stopped the first two cars which carried only policemen, but the others, alerted, swerved into the left hand traffic lane, picked up momentum and quickly escaped over the Belcan Bridge.

The next day the demonstrators took their protest to the international airport. About 70 of them braved the cold drizzle and strong winds to line the approach to the airport on both sides while a covered police transport loaded with riot control policemen patrolled the strip of roadway.

Demonstrators spent all morning waiting for the Caribbean delegates to arrive, but it was not until 2:30 that the BAL (?Belize Air Lines] flight bringing three of the delegates arrived and Mr. Harry Courtenay went out to meet them. It was another two and a half hours before the delegates emerged refreshed from the intransit lounge. They took a dirt road used by the British Army, did a detour and made their way to the main road some 200 yards below the airport terminal to avoid the demonstrators.

Despite the elaborate evasive action the demonstrators did get an opportunity to show their signs further down the road. In any case, they had the last laugh when a group of UDP men and women picketed the San Ignacio Hotel, where the delegates were staying as guests of the Belize Government. They scored a coup on Thursday afternoon when the delegates came down to Belize City for a cocktail party at the Fort George Hotel. UDP, civic and YPF demonstrators were on hand to meet them with picket signs which said "Referendum Before Independence", "No Confidence in the Government" and "Go Back Home".

The delegates got out of their cars and came across and read the signs, but they did not speak to the demonstrators because of the shouting, which was good humoured and not in any way threatening.

Talks End

FL011600Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Feb 78 p 6 FL

[Text] Caribbean ministers at the end of their two days of talks on the future of Belize in Belmopan Thursday evening issued a statement expressing full support for the Belize Government position that land cession as a means of settling the controversy with Guatemala was "unacceptable".

The statement called upon the Commonwealth Secretariat committee to pledge its continuing support for Belize in all international forums. The Caribbean ministers took note of the United Kingdom Government assurance that no solution would be imposed against the will of the people of Belize.

At a luncheon hosted by Premier Price in Belmopan the foreign minister of Jamaica, Mr. P.J. Patterson, said that though Caribbean countries could not offer military assistance to Belize, they can bring the Belize issue to the halls where power exists.

BARBADOS

GOVERNMENT MIGHT HOST CARICOM SUMMIT MEETING

FL281855Y Nassau Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The prime minister of Barbados, Mr Tom Adams, has confirmed that Barbados is studying a request to host a long overdue meeting of heads of government of CARICOM. Mr Adams, speaking on a television news conference last night, declined to say how much more correspondence Barbados had received on the matter, but he said that the government was studying the proposition. There was not a CARICOM summit for more than 2 years now.

As the regional integration movement faces a serious problem, mainly of a trading nature over the last year, several calls have been made for an urgent meeting to deal with these issues.

JAMAICA

MANLEY REPORTS RESULTS OF EUROPEAN VISIT

FL221615Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Feb 78 pp 1, 11 FL

[Text] Assistance with the implementation of the basic engineering design work for the Javemex alumina plant and an offer of a line of credit up to $10 million for the purchase of medical equipment, have been extended to Jamaica by the Hungarian Government.

Prime Minister Michael Manley, who returned home on Saturday after a twelve-day visit which took him to West Germany, Britain and Hungary, announced that in four formal agreements, Jamaica and Hungary had agreed to co-operate in trade and economic relations, cultural exchange and in scientific and technical matters.

He said work would begin April 1 on the basic engineering design work for the Javemex alumina plant; it would take approximately eight months and would be carried out by the Hungarians.

So far as the line of credit to facilitate the purchase of drugs was concerned, the prime minister recalled that this offer had already been extended; but the details had not been worked out.

In discussions held during the visit, Jamaica was offered up to $10 million credit to be repaid over eight years for the purchase of medical equipment. A group of Hungarian officials would visit the island shortly to evaluate the needs as a pre-requisite to the conclusion of a final agreement.

Two Purposes

Prime Minister Manley told reporters in an airport press conference that the two purposes of his visit were--to continue to expand Jamaica's economic contacts, particularly with regard to the five-year plan and, secondly, to increase the pressure for a resumption of meaningful negotiations about the new international economic order [NIEO].

Observing that Jamaica had a special responsibility as chairman of the Group of 77 to seek international support for the NIEO, Mr. Manley said the new international economic order was more than a theory: It involved the urgent need to find answers to the harsh economic difficulties imposed by the world economic system on Third World countries.

"At the international level, the discussions with Prime Minister Callaghan of Britain, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Prime Minister Odvar Nordli of Norway and Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor and now chairman of the Socialist International, concentrated largely on full and frank exchange of views on the obstacles to changes in the international economic system."

Mr. Manley said that the discussion in Hungary in respect of approaches to the NIEO was one of the two central issues on the agenda--the other being detente and disarmament. He spoke with Mr. Janos Kadar, (the Hungarian communist boss) as well as Prime Minister Gyorgy Lazar. Mr. Manley said, "we reviewed the negotiations that have so far taken place between the developing countries and the western industrialised nations at the recent Paris conference and also within the more traditional United Nations framework.

Free Market

"We not only took the opportunity to outline the point of view of the developing countries but suggested the role that the socialist countries can play in helping to secure a more just outcome in the workings of the free market system in international economic activity."

According to the prime minister, the visit to Hungary also provided an opportunity for the chairman and the managing director of the Jamaica State Trading Corporation, Mr. O.K. Melhado and Mr. Dexter Rose, to discuss further co-operation in the field of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. It will be recalled that Hungary recently extended a line of credit to us to facilitate the purchase of drugs from them.

Economic Order

In response to questions as to whether his expressions on the question of a new economic order had any effect on those with whom he held talks, the prime minister said he had the impression that his intervention had "made a certain impact."

"I think that there is no question that a lot of the developed countries are beginning to realize that there is a serious international economic situation, and that there is no prospect of achieving real economic growth internationally if the Third World does not have the foreign exchange with which to purchase manufactured goods... so that one gets the impression that there is some recognition of the urgent need to correct this situation."

He regarded his talks with Mr. Schmidt as "extremely helpful in clarifying areas of misunderstanding and in laying the foundation for further discussion."

SEAGA SAYS COUNTRY IN BAD FINANCIAL POSITION

FL271650Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Feb 78 p 10 FL

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 22 Feb (CANA)--Jamaica's opposition leader Edward Seaga has said that the country is now in its worst financial crisis ever--as a result of government borrowing and using 75 million of this year's receipts from bauxite and sugar, last year. Mr Seaga, head of the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), said that this had left a shortage which was already being felt.

The opposition leader's statement came as a result of reports that governments plans to draw down a substantial portion of next year's bauxite earnings in this year, by a special loan agreement to be negotiated with the bauxite companies, covering $200 million of future revenue. Mr. Seaga said that any such arrangement would put the government in a position to extend this type of transaction to a point where a future government would have few resources to work with. He warned the bauxite companies that if the reported negotiations are true and if they agreed to such a manoeuvre, the next JLP government would hold them responsible for any resulting shortage of resources experienced at that time.

The opposition leader said that government had already begun in a limited way to draw future earnings by negotiating three-month pre-payments of the bauxite levy, so that the $55 million payment due in the first quarter of 1978 was pre-paid in December. He said that this tactic was now being extended, reportedly, to a 12-month period of future earnings involving some $200 million. This would mean a resulting decrease in the amount of foreign exchange available to finance the needs of the country next year, Mr. Seaga said, adding "the oppotition will not agree to government upsurping future receipts and leaving the treasury bare for a future government. If this was done, then the hope for a different and better future on which the country was so desperately depending would be gravely affected."

He called on government to negotiate, urgently, a $200 million loan from the IMF, to forestall a threat of running out of foreign exchange shortly. He added that contrary to one report, this agreement had not yet materialised and discussions were proceeding slowly.

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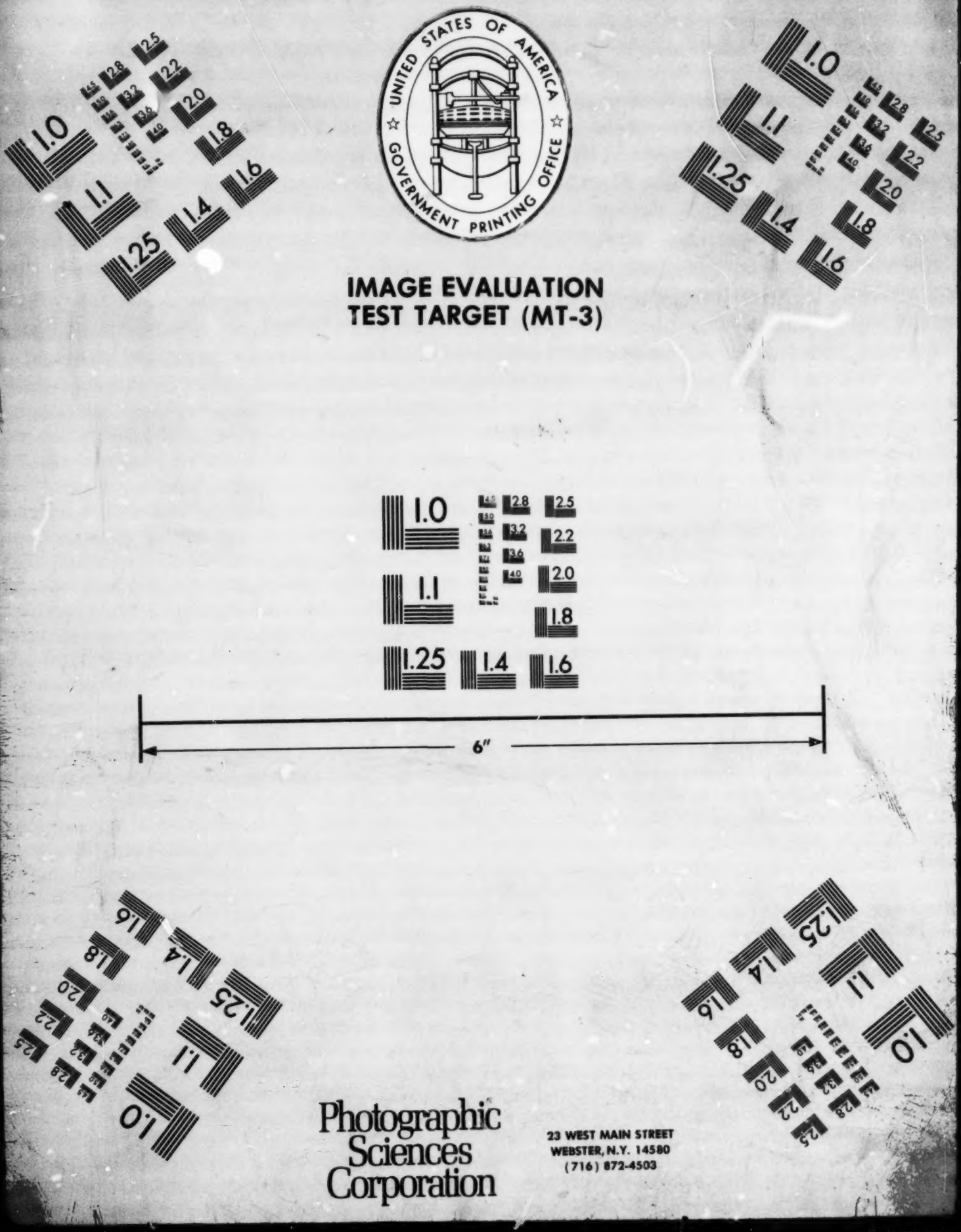
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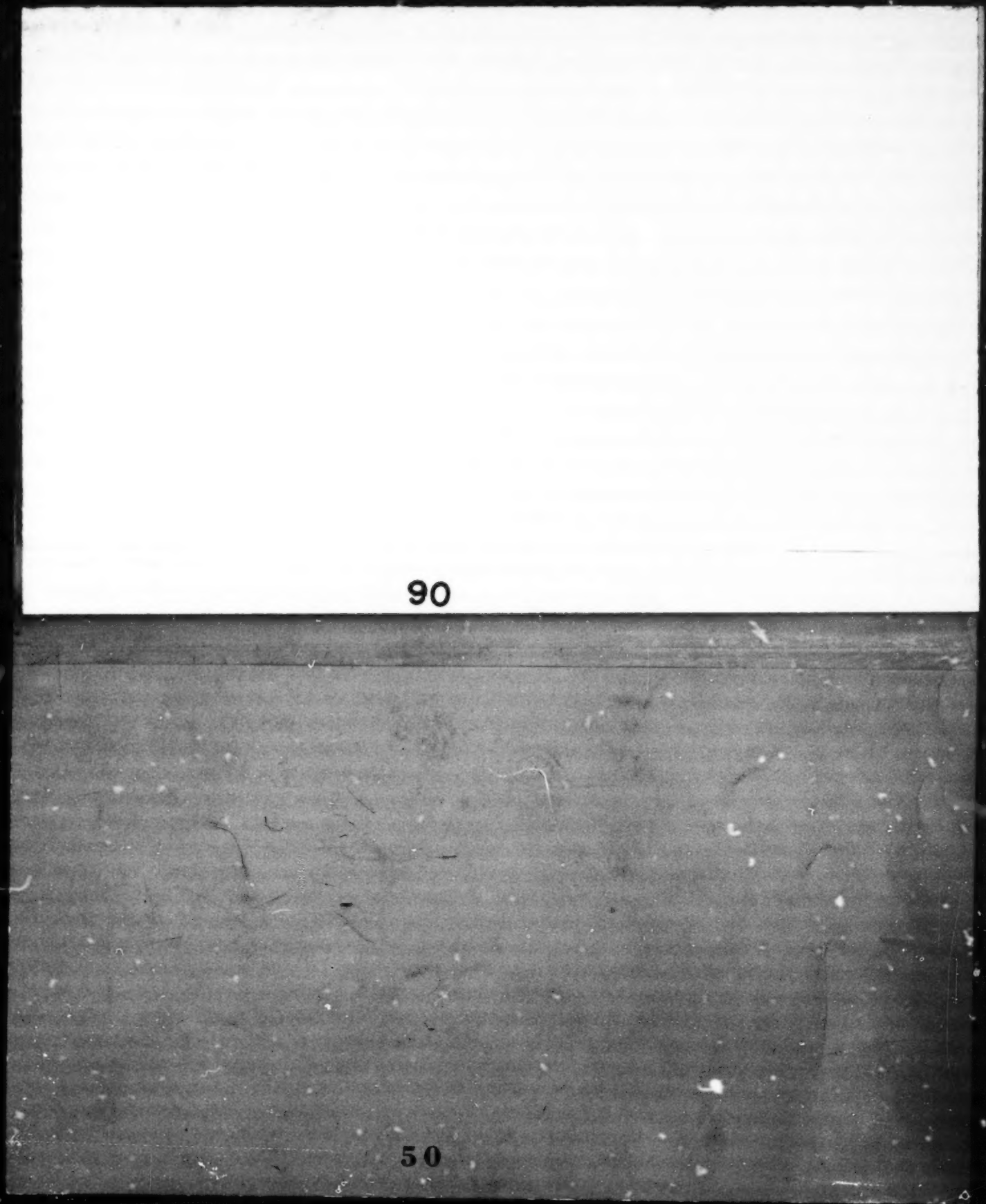
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